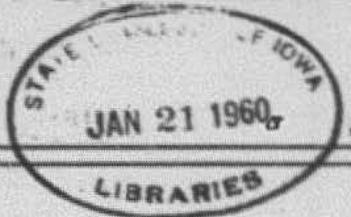


# ECONOMIC COUNCIL LETTER

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## Are the Communists Shaping Our Immigration Policies?

**C**AN the American people have the national policies on new immigration which they wish to have?

The answer at this date is NO.

The American people have achieved a clear and nearly unanimous immigration policy to meet the radical change in world conditions in the 20th century.

For the last 26 years or more systematic attempts have been carried on to erode that policy by harmless-seeming amendments and by administrative decisions well-hidden in official secrecy. These efforts to cut the heart out of our established immigration policies have virtually succeeded.

What is wrong?

From the founding of the colonies through the 19th century our policy was the "open door" for people who wished to leave Europe and settle in America.

The people who came to our shores were those who accepted the hardships of life in a new country to escape the pressures of strong government.

In the 20th century, we were no longer a hardship country. We no longer had a manpower deficit compared with our resources. Political and social order were breaking down in Europe under the stresses of global warfare. We were confronted not with a stream of immigration but a flood.

In 1924 Congress changed our immigration laws from the "open door" to admitting a lim-

ited number of immigrants per year. This total was divided among the nations of Europe on the basis of the number of people in the United States from the various countries, in the census of 1920.

In the Walter-McCarran Act of 1952 Congress reaffirmed this policy with allowances for the refugees of the second World War.

These major pieces of legislation were passed after long continued hearings and full debate in Congress and the press. The bills were approved by vast majorities in both Houses of Congress, drawn from both Parties, from all sections of the country, and Americans of all national origins. The only open opposition to the Walter-McCarran Act of 1952 was furnished by two organizations, both proven communist fronts. These were the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born and the National Lawyers' Guild.

Does not that indicate that the American people wanted a new and definite policy of limited immigration for the 20th century?

**T**HE Roosevelt Administration opened the way to fragmentation of our immigration laws, as it did of other American policies. The doctrine of the New Dealers that government and political leaders could decide better than the people what is good for the country led the way to recognition of Soviet Russia and gradually to administrative loosening of safeguards such as fingerprinting of aliens.

One other political innovation of the New Deal was organization of the masses by pressure

groups which led straight to deference to groups speaking or claiming to speak, for minorities.

Both of these practices were gaining rapidly in influence over our destiny, when World War II gave the Administration the priceless advantage of wartime secrecy. Behind the dark curtain of war censorship of news, the practices of administrative softening of the laws, and political favors to pressure groups were stepped up without any chance that the public could protest.

This is how millions of aliens were able to enter the United States illegally during the war years and to remain here undisturbed.

After the war, political support by minority pressure groups became all-important in preserving New Deal political power. In 1948 legislative changes were added to administrative erosion of the immigration laws. The "good" reason of course was the refugees, whose sad plight became the excuse for a series of carefully planned steps to undermine the immigration laws.

Bills on refugees and immigration were introduced into every Congress from 1948 on, in spite of the fact that Congress had done a superb job on this issue and was desperately busy trying to deal with post-war problems for which no solution had been found.

Little changes in the law were carefully planned to bring about collapse of the entire structure for protection of the United States against overwhelming floods of immigration from post-war Europe. The Displaced Persons Act of 1948 permitted admission of several hundred thousand migrants above the quotas on the ground that they were displaced by actions of the allied armies. But the millions of ethnic Germans who were forced out of Eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia by the tyranny of the Red armies were barred from any benefits under the bill.

NEITHER the election of a Republican President in 1952, nor the enactment over President Truman's veto of the Walter-McCarran Act changed the trend toward planned erosion.

In 1953 a new law permitted "emergency" admission of over 200,000 refugees. Then the move was started to give unused refugee visas to non-refugees. Admittance of another 200,000 migrants was authorized.

The next year the United States set up a government agency to deal with *international* migration. This meant that millions of Europeans could be encouraged to migrate to Latin America—with American governmental assistance. From Latin America

or Canada they could come into the United States without being subject to the quota laws.

Next the legal requirement that refugees must have an individual sponsor was changed to permit sponsorship by agencies. This was a change from entry for *individual* immigrants to *mass* immigration organized by a few powerful agencies.

By 1956 it was proposed not only to raise the total number to be admitted, but to pool unused quota numbers and assign them to migrants from countries whose quotas were small. This was legislating the quota principle out the window.

The Executive branch has also asked for broad general powers to "cope with" the refugee problem. It has taken over much of the Congressional responsibility for private immigration bills which permitted Congress to watch what happened to individuals in this vast operation. This right of "appeal" to Congress has been an important factor in keeping administrative agencies from going as far as they would like in enlarging their powers and rewriting the laws.

Meanwhile the number of European refugees who wished to migrate to the United States has apparently fallen close to the vanishing point.

NOW we come to the question—Who is directing the very skillful campaign which has been eroding the established policies by which the American people revised their immigration laws to fit 20th century conditions? A great many well meaning people, moved by the undoubtedly suffering of the victims of war, supported proposals which seemed designed to meet the need. We cannot tell good American citizens with fine patriotic records and the highest philanthropic motives that the policies they advocate are the end result of communist planning. But we can ask them to look at the record.

Again it is significant that the only agencies which appeared in opposition to the Walter-McCarran bill were two well-known communist fronts.

It is significant that the communists have a long established policy of hamstringing American efforts to deal with aliens. The reason is that our immigration laws handicap them in sending alien communists to act as Soviet agents in this country. Fingerprinting requirements made it easier to trace these agents if they slipped in, even with false names and passports. Our deportation laws were supposed to make it possible to send communist agents out of the country, no matter how long they had been here. So the communists had the strongest reasons for wishing to upset our immigration laws and their enforcement.

It is significant also that the communists are proficient in the two arts which have had so much to do with our recent difficulties—the "arts" of administrative fiat superseding true legislative processes, and of building political power through "minority" pressure groups.

LET us add one more fact. During the same period in which the communists have learned so much about shaping and directing public opinion, on atomic energy, disarmament, and "McCarthyism," there has been a marked change in the popular attitude about the immigration laws, without any genuine public debate on the issues. As always the danger lies in the spread of known communist ideas and slogans among people of unimpeachable loyalty.

Do we have here a genuine change in American public opinion, or do we have another example of the skill with which communists have learned to shape American public opinion, by means of transmission belts, front organizations, penetration by communists into genuine American agencies, manipulation of words, such as "refugee," and subtle appeals to decent human feelings, for purposes carefully hidden?

Let us remember—there is no reason whatever to believe that sound American ideas can continue to prevail, if secret opponents of our policies work continuously and with great skill, while we expect people to hold fast to arguments presented ten, twenty, or thirty years ago. Propaganda is war, a war in which one side is active and the other is inert.

One of the penalties we must pay for the communist strategy of putting innocents out in front is that we can no longer depend on rational debate on political issues. You cannot tell a man he is parroting communist propaganda and expect him to believe it. He is emotionally involved in defending his position and almost immune to argument.

#### WHAT can we do?

We can debate the issues, without bringing charges against the victims of communist intrigue. We can trust that good Americans will extricate themselves if we do our full duty in discussing the issues.

We must make clear to the *people of today* exactly why the United States turned in 1924 to an immigration policy of limited intake, distributed by national quotas. There were very important military reasons for barring mass movements of people, as the airplane and espionage transformed military strategy.

We must make clear to *all* the people of the United States why the communists have been trying, since 1917, to weaken our immigration safeguards.

We must make clear to all our people why the secret advocates of One World Government have similar reasons for encouraging a breakdown of our immigration policy. NATO's political and cultural aims embody schemes for unlimited migration within NATO countries, *including the United States*.

We must retell the story of how much we have done for refugees and displaced persons and how the

problem in Europe is now almost completely taken care of.

We must ask the advocates of new legislation for refugees whether they really want to bring in millions of refugees from Asia and Africa?

We must look to the loopholes in our existing laws, and decide whether or not we should permit indirect immigration by leaving the doors open from Canada and Latin America.

We must re-examine the laws permitting entry of relatives of relatives of relatives, to see at what geometric rate this loophole may be widening.

Finally, and this is most important—we must insist that both the law and the administrative machinery for immigration be made as simple as possible. Communists love executive leeway. They can always use it to their advantage. We only lose by it.

The communists want to bring up amendments to the immigration laws, but they will want to bring up the bills, with very little notice, near the end of the session, just before Congressmen are eager to adjourn for the campaign.

Let us insist that the subject be debated openly and fully, or no action will be taken.

Let us tell the people of 1960 why the quota system is necessary and fair.

Our lawmakers saw clearly in the 1920's that mass immigration could no longer be absorbed by the United States, since we had ceased to have a population deficit. Statesmen also knew that emigration was no remedy for the overcrowded countries. It merely permitted politicians to postpone the day of reckoning—the need for economic development at home.

One of the most effective communist arguments is that our laws were dictated by prejudice against Italians, Poles, and other people from Eastern Europe. Let us tell the Americans of 1960, that quotas could be set to favor the early nationality groups, to favor the newer nationality groups, or to be neutral as between them. The quota system Congress adopted was neutral as between older and newer arrivals. What better could Congress have done? Should it have been prejudiced in favor of the newer immigration or the older stocks?

With great political wisdom the lawmakers found impartial mathematical tools to solve a difficult political problem. Let us point out again that all nationality groups in 1924 agreed upon the compromise.

THE technique of arousing bitter friction between hitherto friendly groups of Americans is too well identified with communism for any good citizen to accept such arguments without looking deep enough to see if he has been duped.

The communists love a two-pronged argument. While they are trying to give the newer immigrants a sense of injury, they have another device for planting anger among people of the earlier stocks. Recently a speaker said that Americans must stop trying to "Americanize" its immigrants. We must begin, he said, to adopt the ideas and institutions of the countries the migrants had come from! Besides being One World Cant, isn't such advice likely to infuriate Americans loyal to the principles of the Founding Fathers? Will it not make them angry at representatives of the newer nationalities for their apparent belittling of the American tradition? Of course! That is exactly what it is designed to do.

NOW let us look deep into the statement of the speaker just quoted. When did Americans pressure immigrants to become Americanized? They never did. One reason why we were extraordinarily successful in uniting people of diverse national origins was that *no pressure was ever invoked*. Americans do not believe in pressure. Then why urge us to stop pressure we never exerted?

Let us go further. Did the immigrants who came

here in recent generations want to preserve European institutions—or to get as far away from them as possible? Of course, we know the answer.

Immigrants adopted American ideas because they wanted to. They had chosen to live in a country which was quite different from the one they left.

Now let us go back to the statement that Americans ought to stop pressuring immigrants to adopt American ideas, but rather to change American ideas and institutions to resemble those of the Old World. Now we can see the sly insinuation for what it is—brilliant propaganda to anger both older and newer Americans, so they will be angry and at loggerheads with each other. That means they can't communicate with each other.

We cannot let the communists stir up hostility by good Americans against good Americans. We must close ranks to fight the communist aim to destroy the safeguards we need against subversion. But sound American ideas are not going to win wide agreement, against a brilliant campaign of forty years work by communists to sabotage American policies, unless we do some very hard work.

Let us find again the common ground on which Americans of all origins were able to unite in 1924 to make a truly American immigration policy for the 20th century.

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